

computer network, via modem 101 or directly through digital telecommunications trunks or other communications links (not shown). Processor based systems 10 located at different U.S. Post Offices may be linked via PSN 102 in a conventional well known manner (such as through modem 101) so that information may be shared between the various Post Offices.

A4 Generally, a copy of the POSTAGEMAKER program will be stored within at least one processor-based system at selected U.S. Post Office locations. PSN linkage of processor-based systems 10 by the Post Office and the user will allow the sharing of information between the various Post Offices and will allow a user to call a number (an authorized Post Office number) and have the Post Office transfer the required amount of postage to a postage storage device 18 installed at a user site by modem. A preferred embodiment of a system and method for conducting transactions, such as that described above, is disclosed in co-pending commonly assigned U.S. application, now patent number 6,199,055, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING FAULT TOLERANT TRANSACTIONS OVER AN UNSECURED COMMUNICATION CHANNEL," previously incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 30, lines 16-20, as follows:

A5 A preferred method for conducting the above described transactions with the button is described in co-pending commonly assigned U.S. application, now patent number 6,199,055, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING FAULT TOLERANT TRANSACTIONS OVER AN UNSECURED COMMUNICATION CHANNEL," previously incorporated herein by reference.

In the Claims

As provided for under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c), a clean version of the entire set of pending claims, whether amended or unchanged, are provided below for the convenience of the Examiner. Attached hereto in the paper captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made" is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. Please cancel claims 20-36 as follows:

1. A system for printing postage comprising:
a general purpose processor based system having a postage printing application

program operable thereon;

a general purpose printer coupled to said general purpose processor based system; and
a sheet having a plurality of transfer sections thereon, wherein said postage printing application controls said general purpose processor based system and said general purpose printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on said sheet.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein a first postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps is printed on a first transfer section of said plurality of transfer sections and a second postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps is printed on a second transfer section of said plurality of transfer sections.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a date by which an item bearing said postage meter stamp must be posted.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a location from which an item bearing said postage meter stamp is to be posted.

5. The system of claim 2, wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a sender's ZIP code.

6. The system of claim 2, wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a recipient's ZIP code.

7. The system of claim 2, wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes an expiration date of said postage storage device.

8. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a postage storage device coupled to said general purpose processor based system having postage value credit stored therein, wherein said general purpose processor based system retrieves an amount of postage from said postage storage device for printing as a postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a unique identification of said postage storage device.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein said unique identification of said postage storage device is a serial number.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein said postage storage device comprises a touch memory utility button.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein said postage storage device comprises an expansion card coupled to a host processor based system.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein said expansion card is a PCMCIA card.

14. The system of claim 8, wherein said postage storage device comprises a disk coupled to a host processor based system.

15. The system of claim 8, wherein said postage storage device comprises a smart card.

16. The system of claim 8, wherein said postage storage device comprises a plurality of devices each storing an amount of postage value credit.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein each postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps includes a graphical security interface.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein said graphical security interface is a two dimensional bar code.

19. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps is printed independent of the creation of a mail piece to be posted using said at least one postage meter stamp.

Please cancel claims 20-36 without prejudice.